**The Orange Order and the Orange Men of Northern Ireland**

Orangemen are members of the Loyal Orange Institution familiarly called the Orange Order, a Protestant Irish society founded and flourishing mainly in Ulster. It was established (1795) to maintain the Protestant ascendancy in Ireland in the face of the rising agitation for Catholic Emancipation. Its name is taken from the family name of King William III of England, who defeated King James II in the battle of the Boyne in 1690. July 12, the anniversary of this victory is the principle holiday of the order, on which the members wear orange-colored flowers and orange sashes and march in parades; parades passing through Catholic sections of Northern Irish cities have been a source of interreligious friction. Branches of the society have been formed in many parts of the English-speaking world.  
These guys are basically anti-Catholic and supporters of King William III.

**The Background Info**

King James's policies of religious tolerance after 1685 met with increasing opposition by members of leading political circles, who were troubled by the king's catholicism and his close ties with France. The crisis facing the king came to a head in 1688, with the birth of the King's son, James Francis Edward Stuart, on 10 June (Julian calendar). This changed the existing line of succession by displacing the heir presumptive, his daughter Mary, a protestant and the wife of William of Orange, with young James as heir apparent. The establishment of a Roman Catholic dynasty in the kingdoms was now likely. Some of the most influential leaders of the Tories united with members of the opposition Whigs and set out to resolve the crisis by inviting William of Orange to England which the stadtholder, who feared an Anglo-French alliance, had indicated as a condition for a military intervention.

**Define:**Tories –

Whigs-   
  
Stadtholder –

Sectarian -

**The Battle of Boyne**

**Why is it important?**The Boyne marked the turning point of the Williamite war and assured British and Protestant dominance over the country for the next two centuries. For this reason, the battle has assumed significant sectarian importance within the country.  
King James II was ruler of the Kingdom of Ireland and England in 1985. He was the last Roman Catholic head of Monarch.   
**What happened?**In the wake of the Glorious Revolution of 1688, the deposed Catholic King James II sought to regain the thrones of England and Scotland. Arriving in Ireland, he took command of the 25,000-man Jacobite army and began planning his next move. Included in his army were 6,000 French soldiers who had been sent by King Louis XIV to aid the Jacobite cause. Alerted to James' action, Protestant King William III began assembling forces to drive his adversary from Ireland. Landing at Carrickfergus in June 1690, with 16,000 men, William quickly linked up with the Duke of Schomberg who led a force of 20,000.

With this combined army, William began moving south towards Dublin. Rather than oppose William's march in the rough country around Newry, James assumed a defensive position along the south bank of the River Boyne, approximately 30 miles north of Dublin. On July 11, William and his men arrived at the Boyne and began scouting the Jacobite positions. While doing so, William was slightly wounded by enemy artillery fire. Making camp at the village of Tullyallen, William devised a plan which called for a sweeping flanking maneuver to the west, while he pinned the Jacobites in place near the fords at Oldbridge.

At 6:00 AM the next morning, William dispatched Count Meinhard Schomberg, the duke's son, west with 10,000 men and orders to cross the Boyne at Roughgrange. From there they were to march east and strike James in the flank and rear. After marching the six miles, Count Schomberg found that the ford at Roughgrange was held by Irish dragoons led by Neil O'Neill. Approaching the ford, Schomberg's men were attacked by O'Neill's troopers. Beating off their charge, Schomberg's troops successfully crossed the river. Receiving news that Williamite forces had crossed at Roughgrange, James dispatched 17,000 men to the area.

As James' men reached Roughgrange they discovered that a deep ravine prevented them from attacking Schomberg's men. Conversely, the ravine blocked Schomberg's advance. As a result, these two forces played no further part in the battle. To the east, William began his assault on James' position around 9:00 AM. At Oldbridge, the attack was led by William's elite Dutch Blue Guards who waded across the river. Despite heavy musket fire from the Jacobite troops, William's men were able to obtain a foothold on the south bank and captured the village of Oldbridge.

Reinforced, the Williamite infantry continued to press their advance. In an effort to block their progress, James began a series of counterattacks near Oldbridge. After his infantry was repulsed, he elected to send his cavalry forward. Halting, the Williamite troops were able to break the cavalry charges, though the Duke of Schomberg was killed in the fighting. Around noon, William led a force of 3,500 men across the Boyne at Drybridge, near Drogheda. With William approaching on their flank, the Jacobites fell back from Oldbridge and assumed a new position near Donore.

Attacking, William's men were forced the Jacobites to retreat after about thirty minutes of fighting. Retreating to Duleek, James reunited with the troops he had sent to Roughgrange. With the battle lost, they began withdrawaling west towards the Shannon. Effectively screened by their cavalry, they were able to escape unmolested.

**Aftermath:**  
The victory at the Boyne cost William approximately 750 killed and wounded, while the Jacobites suffered around 1,500. Continuing his march, William entered Dublin two days later. Fearing that his cause was lost, James departed the army and made for Duncannon. From there he embarked for France, never to return to the British Isles. His army was ultimately besieged at Limerick and forced to surrender the following year. The triumph at the Boyne marked the first major victory for the League of Augsburg over the forces of Louis XIV and his allies.